Name of the operator	Service Aera	Total LD Charged for non commissioning of service & delay in provision of VPTs and Direct Exchange Lines (in crores of Rs.)
Bharti Telenet Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	4.00
Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	13.00
Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd.	Maharashtra	7.75
Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Gujarat	13.00
Shyam Telelink Ltd.	Rajasthan	8.00
HFCL Infotel Ltd.	Punjab	8.00
	TOTAL	53.75

Free I.T.C. card in Noida

†3603. SHRI MOTILAL VORA :
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in NOIDA free ITC cards are provided with a new connection;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make such facility available in other parts of the country also;

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) BSNL has introduced a free ITC card scheme on 17.7.2002, with each new telephone connection for those urban areas, where switching capacity is available but adequate waiting list does not exist.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) Does not arise in view of (b) and (c) above.

Procurement of paddy in Madhya Pradesh

†3604. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Agencies are running in losses in procurement of paddy in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that different criteria are being adopted by the Central Government for Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Foodgrains procured by the State Governments and their agencies are ultimately taken over by the FCI. For the services rendered and expenses incurred by the State Governments and their agencies, FCI reimburses all the incidental expenses such as statutory charges, storage charges, milling charge in the case of paddy, interest, cost of mandi labour, cost of gunny, administrative charges, statutory taxes/cess etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Prices of edible oils

3605. SHRI LALIT SURI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of edible oils, particularly those of low fat category like Safola etc. have been rising;

(b) if so, the percentage of rise in prices for the last two years, category-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to ensure availability of edible oils of all the categories, particularly of low fat categories, for which demand has been on the increase on medical grounds for the elderly?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.